

REMARKS

Claims

Claims 1, 5 and 11–16 and 18 are currently under examination with claims 6–7 previously withdrawn from consideration due to restriction/election. Claims 2–4, 8–10 and 17 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowability of claim 18.

Dependent claim 10, which was previously deemed allowable, is now recited in independent form in Applicants' amended claim 5.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 incorporates the elements of claim 4, which is now cancelled. Claim 5 incorporates the elements of claims 8–10, which are now cancelled. The cancellation of claim 17 is self-explanatory. The amendment of claim 18 corrects a minor typographical error.

Support for the alternative nomenclature of the polypeptide molecules claimed herein can be found in, for example, page 1, lines 11-16; page 3, lines 9-12; and page 3, lines 32-34 of the specification, as originally filed. See, also the disclosure contained in the Figures and the description thereof at pages 7-9 of the originally-filed specification.

It is earnestly submitted that the claim amendments do not raise new matter and further do not require any additional search/examination. Entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1 and ¶2

The rejections, not specifically discussed herein, are moot in view of the amendments. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Mountfort (1999) as evidenced by Kim is respectfully traversed.

While Applicants' disagree with the contentions raised in the Office Action, in order to facilitate prosecution, the claims have been amended. Applicants' amendment of the claims is not to be construed as acquiescence to this or any other ground of rejection. The rejection is therefore moot

in view of the amendments. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above-mentioned arguments and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application are in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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